(d) Gulf countries from time to time declare Amnesty for illegal residents who offer on opportunity to leave the country without facing any legal action. Once Amnesty is declared, the Indian Missions take up the matter with the local authorities for either regularizing the stay of the Indian workers or organizing smooth issue of Emergency Certificates for their deportation to India. This Ministry coordinates with the State Government authorities, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Civil Aviation for ensuring their safe passage back to India.

Indians in jails of Gulf Countries

1862. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians languishing in various jails of Gulf Countries, country-wise;

(b) the details of steps taken by Government to get them released;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Embassies are not giving adequate legal support to the Indians in custody;

(d) the details of such complaints; and

(e) the action taken by Government to ensure that Indian workers get adequate legal support in litigation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) As per the latest information available, there are 2314 Indian nationals in jails in Gulf countries as follows:—

	Name of country	Number of Indians in Jails
1.	Bahrain	114
2.	Kuwait	252
3.	Oman	42
4.	Qatar	32
5.	Saudi Arabia	939
6.	U.A.E.	935
	TOTAL:	2314

(b) to (e) The Government of India, through Indian Missions and Posts abroad and through bilateral meetings with the officials of the concerned countries, make all possible efforts to get Indian nationals in foreign jails released quickly and provide necessary assistance which includes seeking clemency of the Rulers of these countries wherever it is possible, requesting for speedy trials, seeking remission of sentence, seeking consular access to the detainees and prisoners, providing advice/guidance in legal and other matters, ensuring fair and humane treatment in foreign jails and facilitating repatriation to India on their eventual release. The Government also pass on information concerning prisoners to their families in India.

Annual conference of PBD

1863. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the next Annual Conference of the Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas (PBD) would focus on rural population and their development;

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(b) if so, whether the NRI's would be asked to take up partnerships in the rural projects like micro finance initiatives;

(c) if so, the amount of investment that is expected to flow in and whether the agriculture and allied sectors would be benefited by such measures; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (d) The theme of PBD 2008 scheduled to the held in January, 2008 is "Engaging the Diaspora: The way forwar". The Conference will focus on the social development challenges facing India and the initiatives that overseas Indians can take in such diverse areas as health, education, empowerment of women and development in the States. The conference includes several sessions aimed at leveraging the resources, knowledge and philanthropic propensities of the overseas Indian community in rural development and related areas. A plenary session on Diaspora Philanthropy; Empowerment of Rural Women to discuss modes of participation and institutional support required for the Indian Diaspora to participate in philanthropic projects including micro finance initiatives, especially in the field of empowerment of rural women will be one of the highlights of the PBD. The conference is expected to promote partnerships and new initiatives by overseas Indians.

NRIs in Dubai

†1864. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Non-Resident Indians living in Dubai (UAE) have been asked to leave the country till 30th September, 2007;

(b) if so, the number of such NRIs and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that out of these NRIs approximately 700 migrants from Rajasthan have been put into jails and are being tortured there;

(d) if so, the steps taken for their repatriation and the details thereof; and

(e) the action being taken to stop the injust treatment being meted out with these Non-Resident Indians and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Non-Resident Indians living in Dubai have not been asked to leave the country. However, the Government of the UAE had announced a general amnesty scheme for three months beginning from June, 3 to September 2, 2007 which was later extended upto November 2, 2007 calling upon all those persons who were staying illegally in UAE either to leave the country or amend their residential status if they wished to continue work in the UAE. About 70,000 Indian expatriates who were staying illegally benefited from the amnesty and have either left the country or regularized their status with proper documents.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.